

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1 and 5 and cancel claims 23-26, without any prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter thereof. Claims 1, 3-5, 21, and 22 are currently pending.

In the Final Office Action mailed August 25, 2005, the Examiner withdrew claims 23-26 as being directed to a non-elected invention; rejected claims 1, 3-5, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which applicant(s) regard as their invention; rejected claims 1, 3, 4, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,684,965 to Pickering ("Pickering") in view of Applicant's admitted prior art ("AAPA"); and rejected claims 5 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Pickering in view of AAPA and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,465,206 to Hilt et al. ("Hilt").¹ Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and 103.

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting and conducting an in-person interview on November 9, 2005, to discuss the above rejections and listed amendments of claims 1 and 5. For at least the reasons as discussed during the interview and stated in the Interview Summary, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 3-5, 21, and 22 are allowable over the Examiner's applied prior art references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 112 and 103 rejections of claims 1, 3-5, 21, and 22 and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: November 23, 2005

By: Wenye Tan
Wenye Tan
Reg. No. 55,662